

REMARKS

II. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-28, 32 and 36-46 are pending in the application. By this amendment claims 1, 2, 32, and 36 are being amended. The amendments are fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed, no new matter is added, and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

In particular, amendments to claims 1, 2, 32 and 36 are supported in part by the specification page 13 line 8 through page 14 line 19.

III. REJECTION OF THE CLAIMS UNDER 103

The Examiner rejected all claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,209,023 to Dimitroff et al., (hereinafter DIMITROFF), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,480,955 to DeKoning et al., (hereinafter DEKONING).

THE PRESENT INVENTION:

In summary, the present invention is directed to a method, a computer program product, and to a system for collecting connection information.

Preferably, the method and/or the computer program involve the steps of or provide instructions for: (a) querying said server to identify all host bus adapters coupled thereto; (b) querying each host bus adapter to identify all device controllers attached on said communication channel; (c) issuing a read connection information command to said device controller and returning the connection results identifying said communication channel; and (d) storing the returned connection results in a data structure.

CITED REFERENCES:

DIMITROFF is directed to a method of virtualizing SCSI semantics onto a non-SCSI transport medium. DIMITROFF provides a Get Logical To Physical Device Mapping command (hereinafter "GET_MAPPING"). (Col. 14 line 64, through Col. 15 line 14). The GET_MAPPING returns a logical to physical device mapping table. The GET_MAPPING command is used for data for each device including four contiguous bytes called a "device record": one byte represents an FCP LUN value, a second byte represents a SCSI bus, a third byte represents a SCSI target, and a fourth byte represents a SCSI LUN. (Col. 14, lines 2-13).

DEKONING is directed to a system and method for managing device configuration changes. The system and method preferably comprises a management station which issues a configuration change request to a management device and waits for a reply from the managed device. (Abstract)

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CLAIMED INVENTION AND THE CITED ART:

As to claim 1:

First, Applicants submit that neither of the cited references alone or in combination teach or suggest "issuing a read connection information command to said device controller and returning the connection results identifying said communication channel" as the term "communication channel" is used in amended claim 1 and described in the specification. In the present application, the communication channel between an array controller and the server can be identified. (page 8, lines 17-19). In contrast, the GET_MAPPING command suggested in DIMITROFF returns a physical device mapping table. (Col. 15, lines 2-3). DIMITROFF does

not identify the communication channel between the array controller and the server. In contrast to the claimed invention, DIMITROFF returns the mapping information for the associated device as described above.

Moreover, the Applicants' have not found, nor has the Examiner suggested, that DIMITROFF suggests identifying the communication channel. Thus, Applicants submit that neither of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest "issuing a read connection information command to said device controller and returning the connection results *identifying said communication channel*".

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn, and that claim 1, and claims 2-28 which are dependent therefrom, be allowed.

As to claim 32:

Applicants submit that, as noted above for claim 1, neither of the cited references alone or in combination suggest "issuing a read connection information command to said device controller and returning the connection results identifying said communication channel" as those terms are used in claim 32 and described in the specification.

Moreover, the Applicants submit that neither reference alone or in combination teach or suggest identifying said communication channel, in response to a "means issuing a read connection information command", as provided in claim 32. Applicants submit that the section in DIMITROFF cited by the Examiner, Col. 14 line 64 – Col. 15 line 15; col. 15 lines 51-65), does not disclose or suggest identifying the communication channel at all.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn, and that claim 32 be allowed.

As to claim 36:

Claim 36 is directed to a system for collecting connection information for a network computer system. As amended claim 36 includes the limitations of: means issuing a read connection information command to said device controller and returning the connection results determined by said command including identifying said communication channel.

Applicants submit that, as noted above for claim 1, neither of the cited references alone or in combination suggest “identifying said communication channel. In particular, Applicants submit that neither of the cited references alone or in combination teach or suggest a “A system for collecting connection information for a network computer system comprising: a server; at least one device controller coupled to said server by a first communication channel; a client coupled in communication with said server; means querying said server to identify all host bus adapters coupled thereto; means querying each host bus adapter to identify all device controllers attached on said communication channel; means issuing a read connection information command to said device controller and returning the connection results determined by said command including identifying said communication channel; and means storing the returned connection results in a data structure”. Thus, claim 36 is neither anticipated by nor obviated by the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn, and that claim 36, and claims 37-46 dependent therefrom, be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments and preceding remarks. In the event that the Examiner identifies any other issues that would preclude issuing a Notice of Allowance, the courtesy of a telephone call to the undersigned attorney would be appreciated.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, such as fees for extension of time and claims added herein but not otherwise paid for, to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. A-67525/RMA/KRG).

Respectfully submitted,

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